

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 424

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 63 in Scott County in honor of the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam and the late Private First Class Denny Lee Washam, both of the United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, who was killed in action while performing combat operations in Iraq on February 14, 2006, and Private First Class (PFC) Denny Lee Washam, who was killed by enemy fire while engaged in battle with the North Vietnamese on December 8, 1968, at Quang Nam Province, Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam and PFC Denny Lee Washam both followed the patriotic tradition for which Scott County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps (USMC); and

WHEREAS, in addition to being fellow Marines, they were related by blood: Rusty Lee Washam was Denny Lee Washam's nephew; and

WHEREAS, a proud American and a proud United States Marine, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam was engaged in a special security mission in Iraq as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, USMC, at the time of his death; he had previously served with distinction in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Washam received numerous decorations for his courageous service as a Marine, including the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense

Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism (Service), and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 graduate of Scott County High School, Rusty Lee Washam was a loving son, husband, and father; and

WHEREAS, PFC Denny Lee Washam 1st Marine Division, USMC, was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic service in combat on December 8, 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, upon observing two fellow Marines fall wounded in a dangerously exposed area, he crawled to their aid without hesitation while under heavy enemy fire; while assisting the wounded Marines to a position of relative safety, he was mortally wounded by an enemy sniper; and

WHEREAS, PFC Washam also received other decorations for his valiant service as a Marine, including the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, and Vietnamese Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, a native of Scott County, Denny Lee Washam was a 1966 graduate of Norma High School; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Corporal Washam and PFC Washam did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free an oppressed people; and

WHEREAS, only twenty-one years of age at the time of their respective deaths, Corporal Washam and PFC Washam served with great courage and gallantry, giving their lives for their country and for the causes in which they believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, these brave soldiers deserve proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Lee Washam's and Denny Lee Washam's dedication to excellence in the USMC and their love for their family, their fellow Marines, and their country, as exemplified in their sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that they held dear, stand as enduring examples of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate for this General Assembly to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam and the late Private First Class Denny Lee Washam by naming a certain bridge in their native Scott County in their honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning Buffalo Creek on State Route 63 in Scott County is hereby designated as the "Corporal Rusty Lee Washam - PFC Denny Lee Washam Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the lives of valor and death in combat of Corporal Rusty Lee Washam and Private First Class Denny Lee Washam, both of the United States Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge spanning the Buffalo Creek on State Route 63 in Scott County as the "Corporal Rusty Lee Washam - PFC Denny Lee Washam Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.